

What is claimed is:

1. In an electronics assembly engineering system comprising a computer subsystem in which user-defined data structures accessible to editor software have referential integrity, and in which user modifications to the data structures during editing are made directly to the data structures rather than indirectly by way of a temporary file, a method for permitting naming and manipulation of the data structures, the method comprising the steps of:

providing close, discard and rename functions for the data structures, if a newly-created data structure is being edited;

providing close and copy functions for the data structures if an existing data structure is being edited; and

excluding a save-as function for the data structures.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data structures comprise objects.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data structures comprise mark-up language documents.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the data structures comprise XML documents.

5. In an electronics assembly engineering system, a computer subsystem in which user-defined data structures accessible to editor software have referential integrity, and in which user modifications to the data structures during editing are made directly to the data structures rather than indirectly by way of a temporary file, the subsystem comprising:

a computer-readable media having stored on it instructions for performing naming and manipulation functions for the data structures, the functions comprising (i) close, discard and rename functions for the data structures, if a newly-created data structure is being edited; and (ii)

close and copy functions for the data structures if an existing data structure is being edited; and the functions not comprising a save-as function for the data structures.

6. The subsystem according to claim 5, wherein the data structures comprise objects.

7. The subsystem according to claim 5, wherein the data structures comprise mark-up language documents.

8. The subsystem according to claim 7, wherein the data structures comprise XML documents.

9. The subsystem according to claim 5, wherein the computer-readable media is removable from the subsystem.

10. A computer-readable media for use with an electronics assembly engineering system comprising a computer subsystem in which user-defined data structures accessible to editor software have referential integrity, and in which user modifications to the data structures during editing are made directly to the data structures rather than indirectly by way of a temporary file, the media having stored on it instructions for performing a method for permitting naming and manipulation of the data structures, the method comprising the steps of:

providing close, discard and rename functions for the data structures, if a newly-created data structure is being edited;

providing close and copy functions for the data structures if an existing data structure is being edited; and

excluding a save-as function for the data structures.

11. A computer-readable media for use with an electronics assembly engineering system comprising a computer subsystem in which user-defined data structures accessible to editor software have referential integrity, and in which user modifications to the data structures

during editing are made directly to the data structures rather than indirectly by way of a temporary file, the media having

stored instructions for performing naming and manipulation functions for the data structures, the functions comprising (i) close, discard and rename functions for the data structures, if a newly-created data structure is being edited; and (ii) close and copy functions for the data structures if an existing data structure is being edited; and the functions not comprising a save-as function for the data structures.

12. In a computer system in which user-defined data structures accessible to editor software have referential integrity, and in which user modifications to the data structures during editing are made directly to them rather than indirectly by way of a temporary file, a method for permitting naming and manipulation of the data structures, the method comprising the steps of:

providing close, discard and rename functions for the data structures, if a newly-created data structure is being edited;

providing close and copy functions for the data structures if an existing data structure is being edited; and

excluding a save-as function for the data structures.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the data structures comprise objects.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the data structures comprise mark-up language documents.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the data structures comprise XML documents.

16. A method for enabling data structure naming and manipulation functions in a computer system coupled to a display and employing transacted service, wherein the data

structures have referential integrity and temporary copies of data structures are not created during editing of the data structures, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting on the display a representation of a plurality of data structures; and

providing a plurality of functions for either or both of naming and manipulation of data structures, the plurality of functions excluding a save-as function.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of manipulation functions comprises providing close, discard and rename functions if a newly-created data structure is being edited.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of manipulation functions comprises providing close and copy functions if an existing data structure is being edited.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of presenting on the display a representation of a plurality of data structures comprises presenting a graphical representation of a plurality of data structures.

20. A method for enabling naming and manipulation functions for data structures in a computer subsystem of an electronics assembly system engineering system, the computer subsystem coupled to a display and also employing transacted service, wherein the data structures have referential integrity and temporary copies of data structures are not created during editing of the data structures, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting on the display a representation of a plurality of data structures; and

providing a plurality of functions for either or both of naming and manipulation of data structures, the plurality of functions excluding a save-as function.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of manipulation functions comprises providing close, discard and rename functions if a newly-created data structure is being edited.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of manipulation functions comprises providing close and copy functions if an existing data structure is being edited.

23. The method according to claim 20, wherein the step of presenting on the display a representation of a plurality of data structures comprises presenting a graphical representation of a plurality of data structures.